



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,852	10/30/2003	Martin Weiss	20073	2851

23470 7590 09/07/2006  
SRAM CORPORATION  
1333 N. KINGSBURY, 4TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60622

EXAMINER
----------

LUONG, VINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3682

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/605,852	WEISS, MARTIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vinh T. Luong	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-3, 5-14, 20 and 24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-18, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

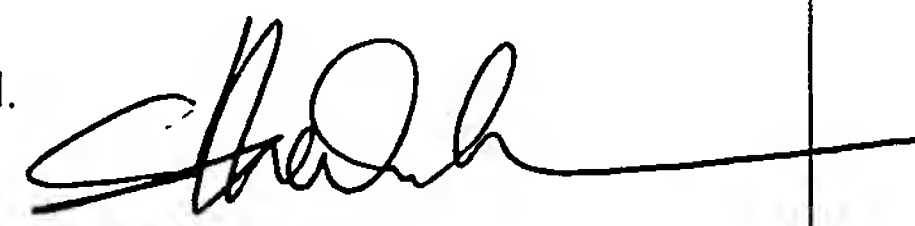
### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
**Vinh T. Luong**  
**Primary Examiner**

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Attachment</u> . |

Art Unit: 3682

1. A request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 29, 2006 has been entered.
2. The restriction and the election in the parent application are carried over to the instant RCE application.
3. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 20, and 24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on November 2, 2005.
4. The drawings were received on May 3, 2006. These drawings are accepted by the Examiner.
5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
6. Claims 15-18, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita (US Patent No. 5,946,978).

Regarding claim 15, Yamashita teaches a control cable adjustment device for adjusting a control cable 14b extending between a control mechanism 16 (Fig. 1) and an operating mechanism 18, the adjustment device comprising:

Art Unit: 3682

an adjuster 50 (Fig. 6) rotatably connected to a housing 40 of the control mechanism 16 such that the adjuster 50 is axially movable relative to the housing 40 in response to rotation of the adjuster 50; and

a detent mechanism including a detent contour 62 (*id.* col. 5, line 56 through column 6, line 24) extending along a radial interior surface (Figs. 4-7) of the adjuster 50 and a spring element 42 having at least one retention segment 93 and a support segment 95, the retention segment 93 of the spring element 42 *deformably traversing along* the detent contour 62 (at its bent portion as best seen in Fig. 4 of the Attachment. *Ibid.* col. 6, lines 14-34), the support segment 95 of the spring element 42 supported by the housing 40 (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 16, the detent contour 62 has a non-round cross section (since the contour 62 is a longitudinally extending slot) and is configured such that the retention segment 93 has freedom to deflect, the retention segment 93 is configured to extend substantially parallel with the control cable 14b extending through the adjuster 50. See Fig. 3.

Regarding claim 17, the detent contour 62 includes varying surfaces 60 (Fig. 7, see Attachment) configured to engage the retention segment 93 such that rotation of the adjuster 50 in a first direction requires a higher rotational force than rotation of the adjuster in a second direction. *Ibid.*, col. 6, lines 24-64.

Regarding claim 18, the detent contour 62 has flutes 52 extending in an axial direction of the adjuster 50.

Regarding claim 21, the retention segment 93 and the support segment 92/95 of the spring element 42 are loaded primarily flexurally.

Art Unit: 3682

Regarding claim 22, the adjuster 50 has a continuous periphery and a thread 52 for matingly engaging the housing 40, the detent contour 62 extends coaxially with the adjuster thread 52.

7. Claims 19 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

9. Applicant's arguments filed June 29, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contended:

Claim 15 has been amended to state that the retention segment of the spring element deformably traverses along the detent contour from within the adjuster. In Yamashita, the longitudinal portion 93 of the indexing spring 42 does not deformably traverse along a detent contour. Accordingly, Yamashita fails to disclose a retention segment of the spring element deformably traverses along the detent contour from within the adjuster.

The Examiner respectfully submits that Applicant's contention is unsupported by the substantial evidence in the record. In fact, Yamashita teaches the element 50 that has a detent contour 62 wherein the retention segment 93 of the spring 92 engages the contour 62 *from within* the element 50. Moreover, one end of the retention segment 93, which is connected with the support segment 92/95, is bent transversely to the detent contour as seen in Figs. 4 and 5 so that

Art Unit: 3682

it is deflected in a direction substantially transverse to the direction of longitudinal movement of adjusting member/housing 40 as explicitly described in column 6, lines 4-34.

By comparison, Yamashita's retention segment 93 is similar to Applicant's retention segment 27. On the one hand, Applicant's retention segment 27 is bent transversely relative to the detent contour 5 at its end that connects to the support segment 26, on the other hand, Yamashita's retention segment 93 is bent transversely relative to the detent contour 62 at its end that connects to the support segment 95/92. Thus, Yamashita teaches the spring 42 comprising the retention segment 93 that deformably traverses (at one end) along the detent contour 62 from within the adjuster 50 as described and claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant's request to allow the instant application is respectfully denied.

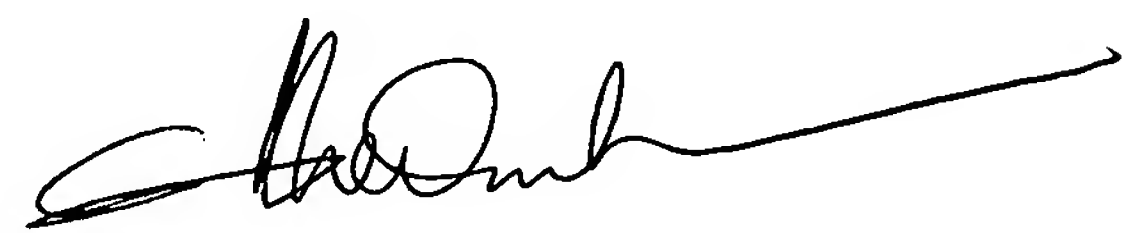
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vinh T. Luong whose telephone number is 571-272-7109. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on 571-272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Luong

September 3, 2006



Vinh T. Luong  
Primary Examiner

# ATTACHMENT



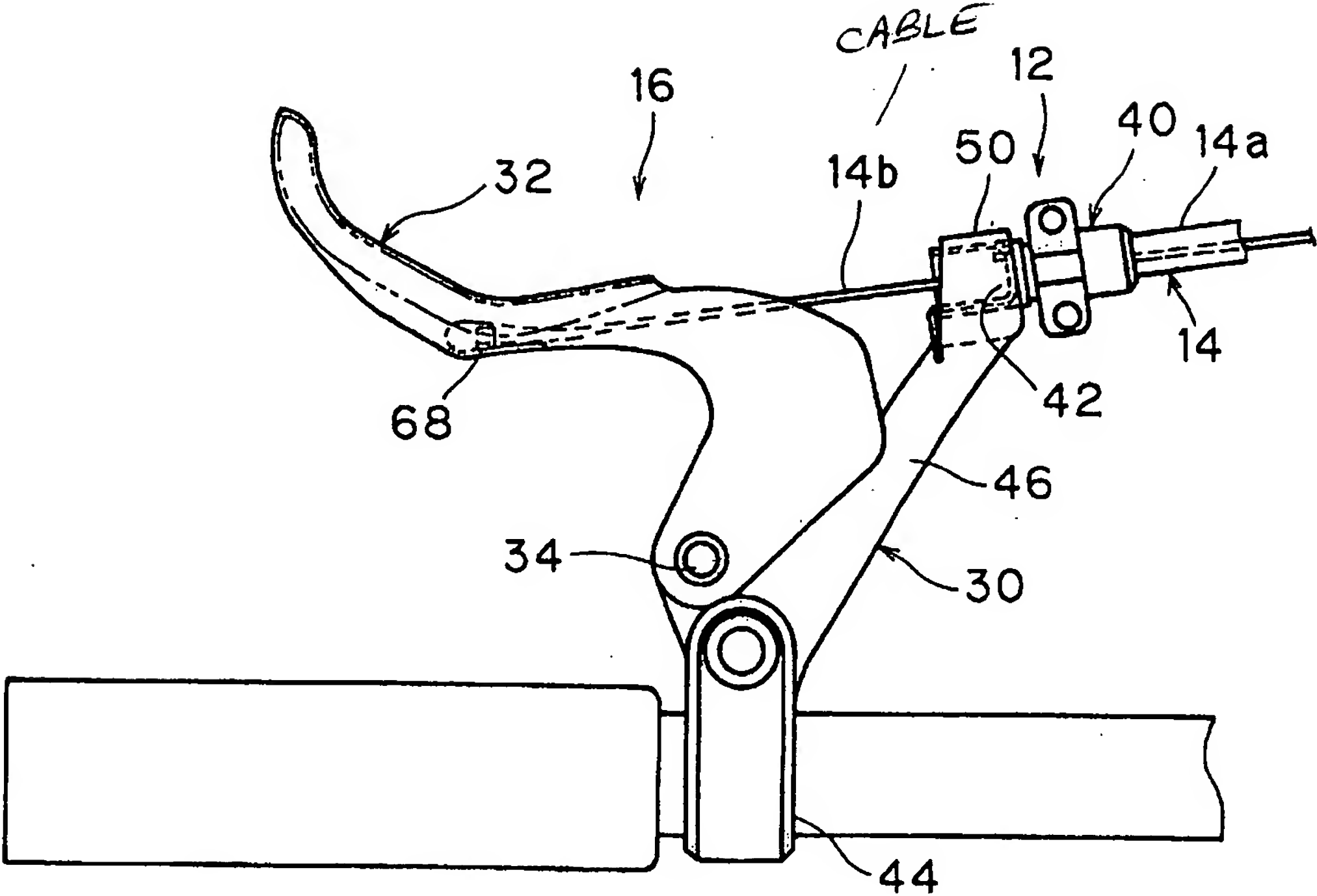


Fig. 3

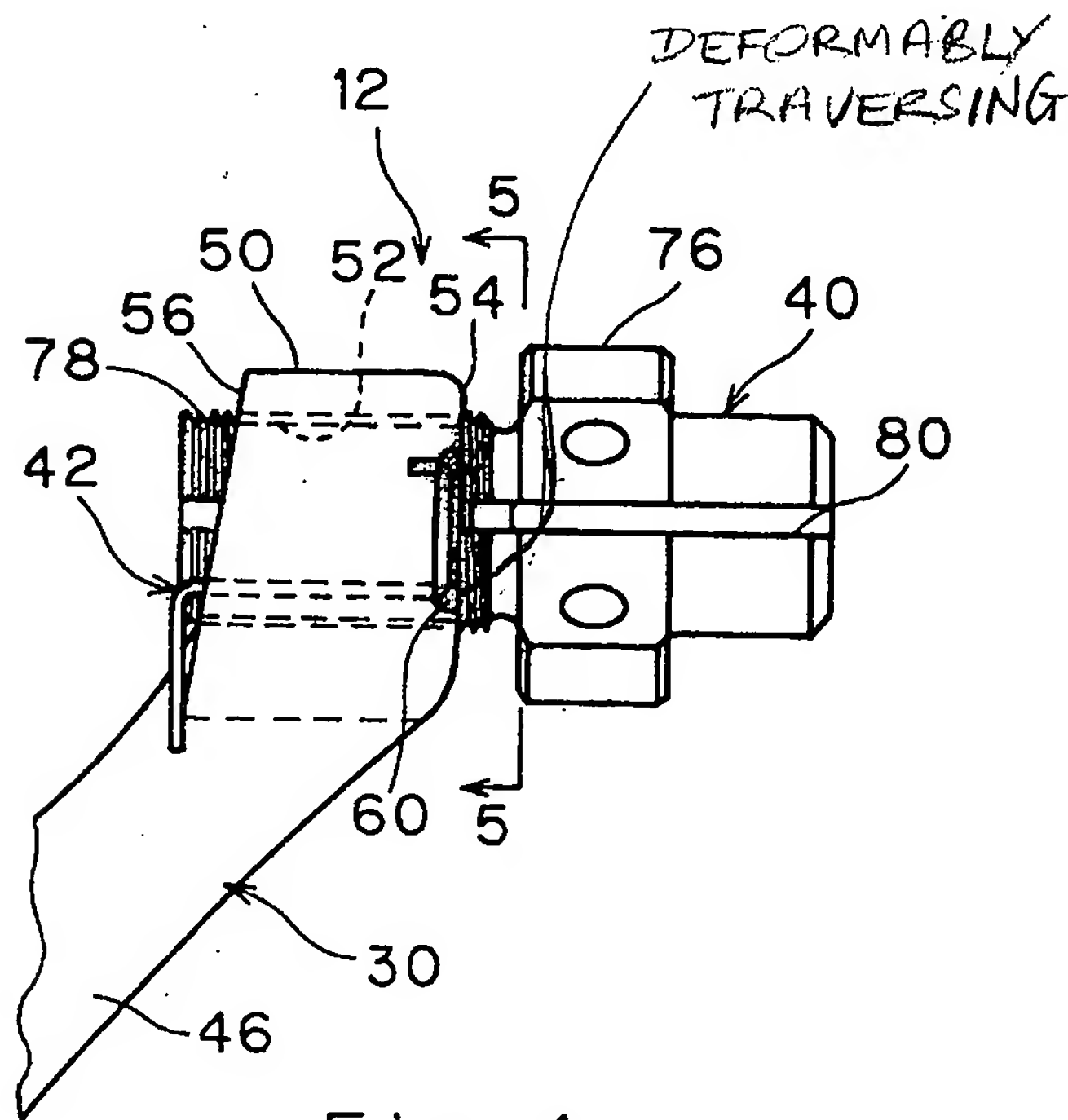


Fig. 4

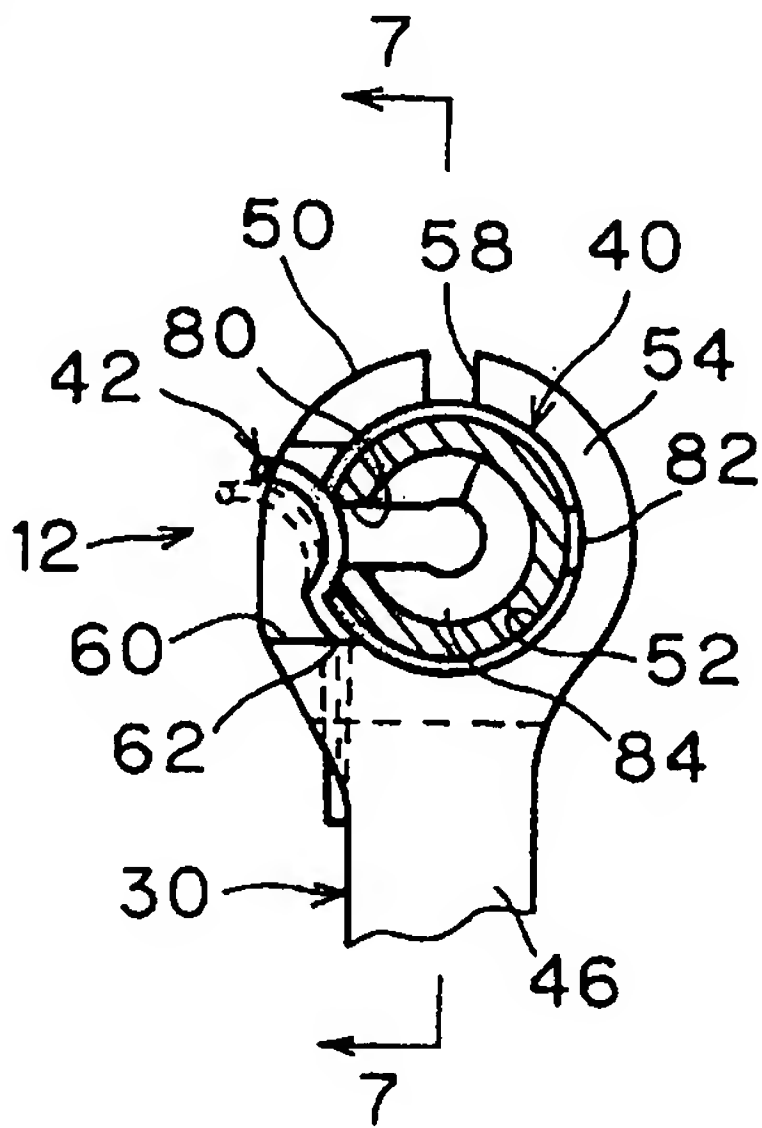
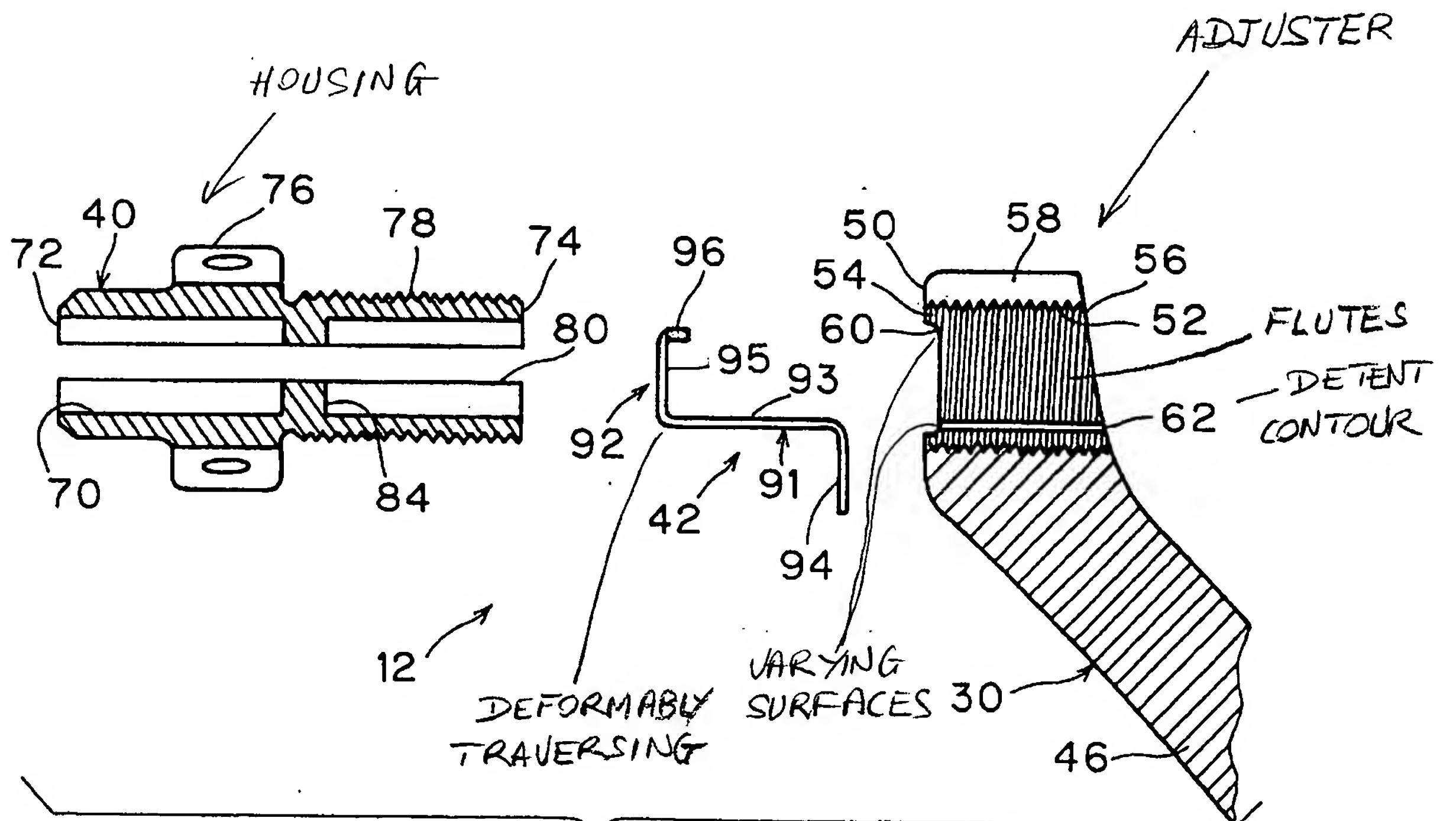
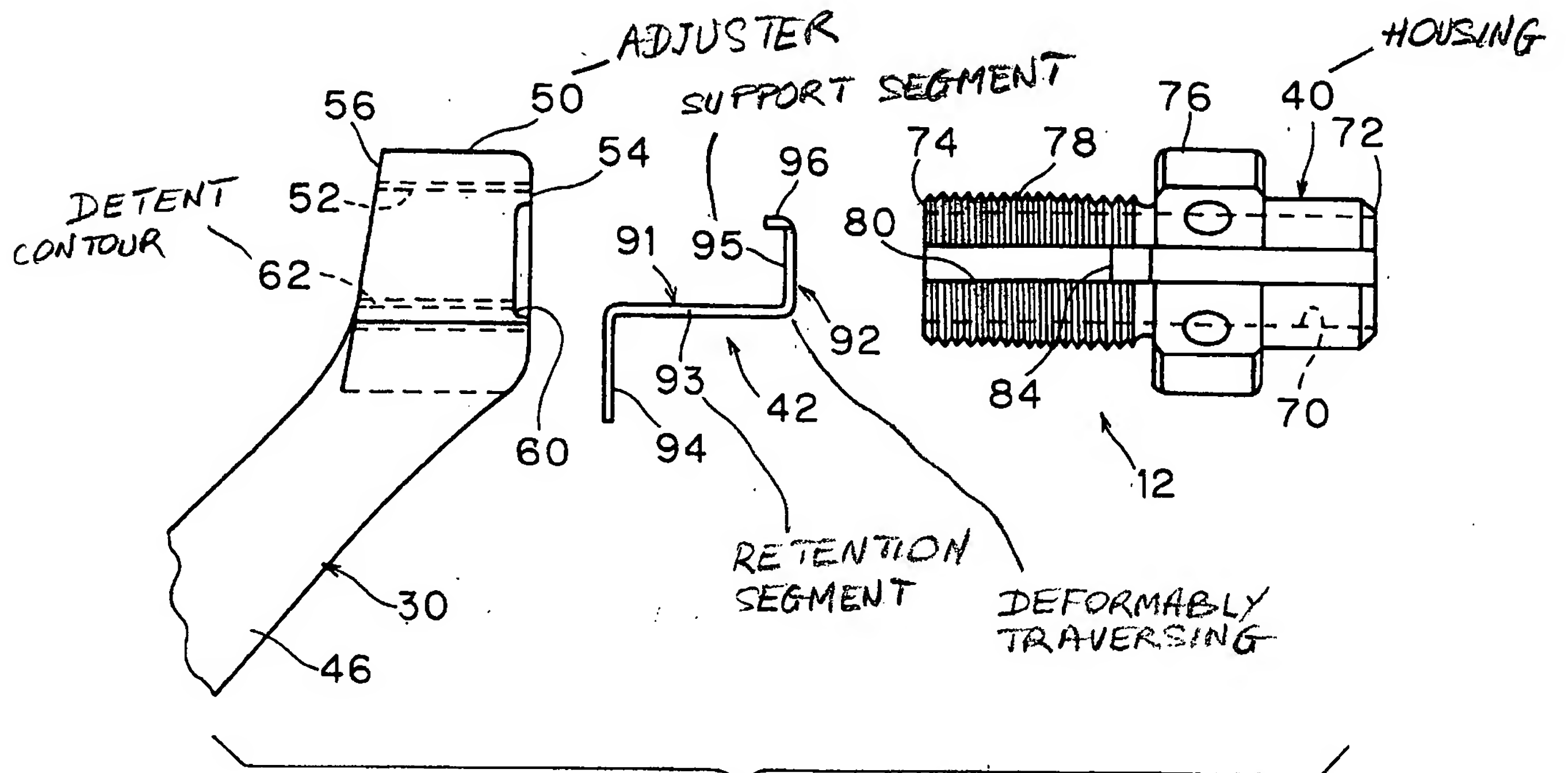


Fig. 5





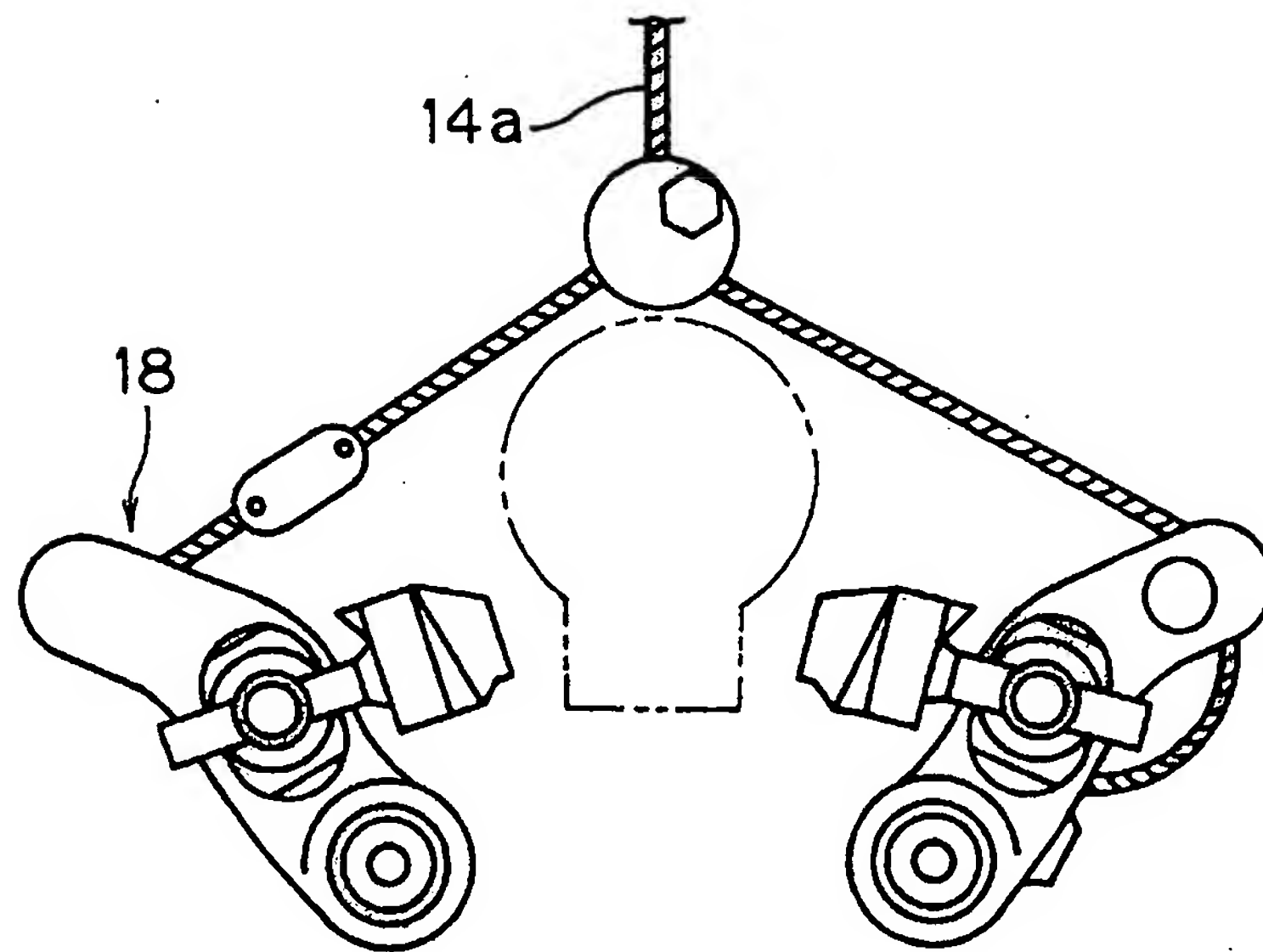


Fig. 8

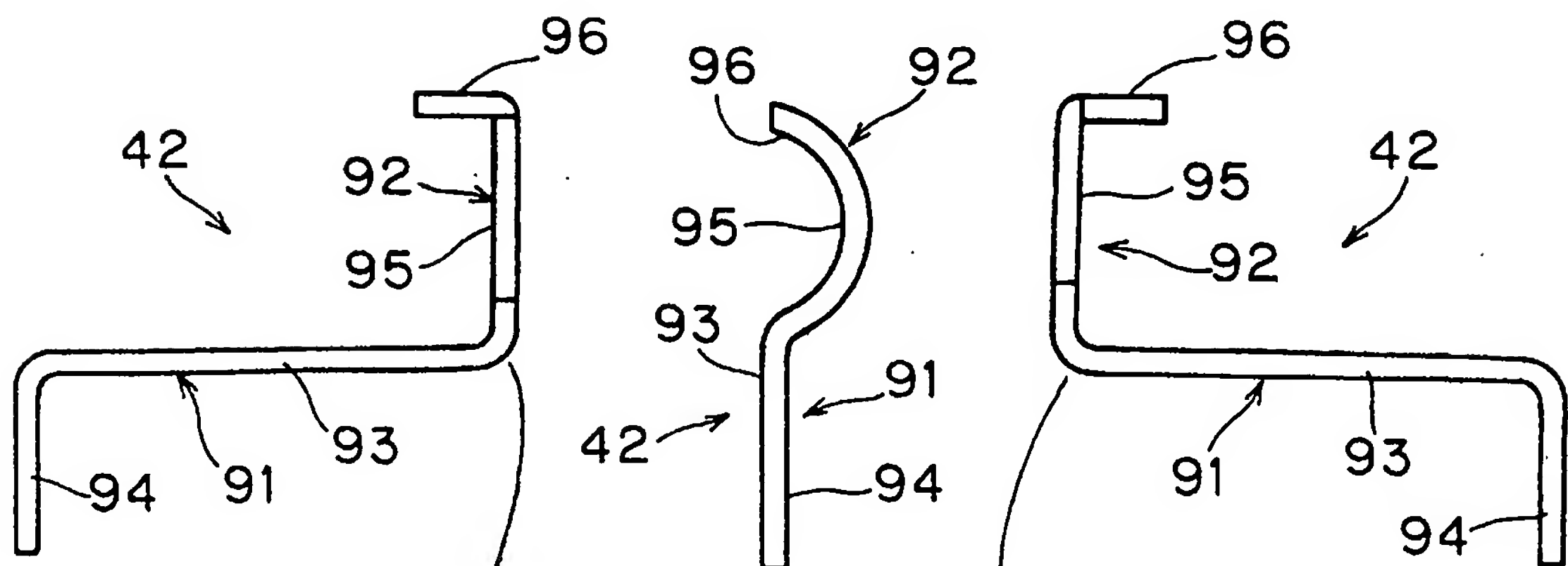


Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

# DEFORMABLY TRAVERSING

# DEFORMABLY TRAVERSING